Planning for a College Partnership Laboratory School

"Early College Preparatory Laboratory School for Middle Grades"

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Why College Preparatory Laboratory School?

- ✓Considerable publicity about the U.S.'s declining rankings in international comparisons of young people with college degrees
- ✓Among low-income students, the bachelor's completion rate is 26% while only about 14 % earn an associate degree
- ✓Decades of empirical research articulate the barriers and interventions that respectively impede and advance underserved populations in STEM
- ✓Over the next decade, the most vibrant innovations in education will take place outside traditional institutions
- ✓Students learn best while engaged in activities that involve creative problem-solving and responsibilities to fellow students as a cooperative community

Why College Preparatory Laboratory School for Rural Middle School?

- Structural supports for learning
  - Middle school learners are qualitatively different than younger learners.
  - Show students that the skills they need to be successful are within their grasp
- Alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment
  - Prefer active over passive learning activities that involve working with their peers
  - Clearly articulate the criteria for success and provide clear, immediate, and constructive feedback
- Individualization of instruction
  - By ages 12, 13, and 14, most students have begun developing the ability to understand symbolic ideas and abstract concepts.
- Professional development
  - Middle school teachers need to be extremely mindful of student self-perceptions and those of their peers.

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Goals—

- **Increase significantly the percentage of college-age Virginians enrolling in institutions of higher education and attaining degrees by preparing a targeted group of rural school learners using innovative and quality instruction, creative curriculum, and the use of data for instructional decision-making**

- **Attract and prepare young people for the STEM areas and other disciplines where skill shortages now exist and/or unmet.**

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Target--

Rural schools, grades 6-8, low socio-economic

8 regional districts within Southside Virginia

Program--

Summer Residential : 7-10 weeks

Utilize LU buildings and resources

Periodic academic year enrichment programs

"Early College Preparatory Laboratory School for Middle Grades"

Personnel--

- **Barbara Johns Endowed Educator-in-Residence***
- **LU Distinguished Faculty ***
- **Lab School Teaching Faculty with demonstrated expertise in STEM education***

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Curriculum

- STEM focused curriculum using technology
- Covey Leadership Training
- Healthy Living & Childhood Obesity

LU Learning Community

- Internships/Mentoring/Tutoring
- Service Learning for all university majors
- Research apprenticeships
- Professional Development

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Research

- Closing the academic achievement gap for economically diverse learners in rural settings
- Developing global competitiveness through innovative learning models
- Exploration of rural educational practices that are successful for racial/ethnically diverse learners
- Joint professional community and school environments

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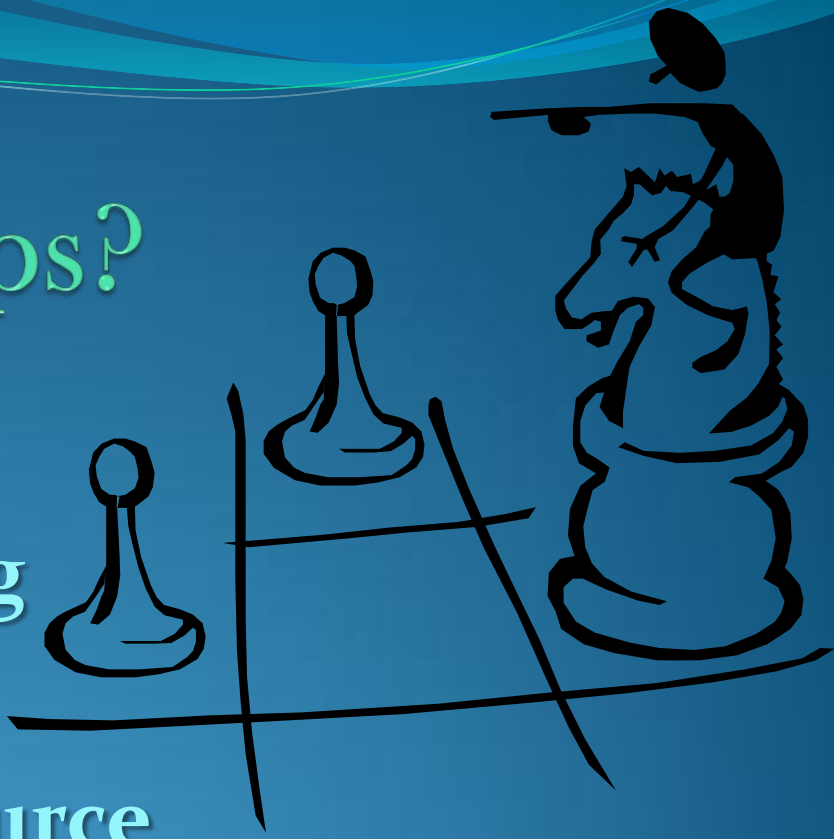
Community Engagement

- Civil Rights Trail/Moton Museum
- Longwood Center for the Visual Arts

- Parental/Family Involvement

- Adult Literacy

Next Steps?



Planning

Funding source

Appropriate timelines